SBIR Technical Conference Call
Questions for NIH

June 11, 2003

1. Input came in regarding Question 13 from last week's questions. The question and input follow.

13. The Packaging

<http://era.nih.gov/Docs/Packaging_Electronic_Grant_App_A_04-29-03.pdf> an Electronic Grant Application document on the NIH Web site breaks the research body of a 398 grant proposal into seven separate parts, each to be submitted as a separate PDF. Here is a list of all the PDF documents, with the research body (parts 8-15) in red (not marked in red in copy sent):

1.   Project Description
2.   Positions, Honors and Citations for USER A
3.   Research Support for USER A
4.   Positions, Honors and Citations for USER B
5.   Research Support for USER B
6.   Facilities
7.   Major Equipment
8.   Introduction to Revised Application
9.   Introduction to Supplemental Application
10. Research Plan sections A through D
11. Research Plan sections E and F
12. Research Plan section G
13. Research Plan section H
14. Research Plan section I
15. Research Plan section J

Will there be page numbers on the pages of these 8 PDF documents? If yes, will the page numbers be sequential or will each document start at page 1? By "sequential" I mean, for example, that the first page number of Research Plan section G will be one more than the last page of Research Plan section E and F.

Input

Regarding the issue of breaking up the research body into separate PDFs, that is, question 13 from http://era.nih.gov/Docs/NIH_Q&A_SBIR_Call_05-28-03.pdf. This email is an observation about HTML links to PDFs that may be useful.

I have done a little research and discovered that an HTML (http style) reference can specify a starting page number within a PDF as long as Adobe Acrobat is used as the viewer. Using the conference call PDF as an example, here is a reference to the start of page 4:

http://era.nih.gov/Docs/NIH_Q&A_SBIR_Call_05-28-03.pdf#page=4

which happens to be in the middle of question 13. The addition of #page=4 at the end of the reference does it.

I do not know how these PDFs are being used internal to the NIH, but if the research body is read using an internet browser and Adobe Acrobat, then the research body could be submitted as a single PDF as long as each of the sections identified as separate PDFs in http://era.nih.gov/Docs/Packaging_Electronic_Grant_App_A_04-29-03.pdf#page=21 started on a separate page. Of course the electronic submission package would have to identify the starting page number for each section.

I have not been able to get this #page=N to work if I am referencing a file on my own computer. For example, suppose I download the above-mentioned PDF to my PC at C:\Downloads\NIH_Q&A_SBIR_Call_05=28-03.pdf:

<a href="file://samsbox/c/download/NIH_Q&A_SBIR_Call_05-28-03.pdf"> -- this link will work

<a href="file://samsbox/c/download/NIH_Q&A_SBIR_Call_05-28-03.pdf#page=4"> -- this link does not work

In addition, http://www.rdpslides.com/psfaq/FAQ00050.htm, is where I found the technique described above. It is interesting as it describes some other options besides just "#page=N".

Response

We are still looking into this issue. We will need to allocate more resources to it than we have so far. We will pursue the HTML link idea. There is nothing hard and fast about the PDF bookmark, only the ability to navigate quickly to the different sections.

We also did not want to rely on markers of any kind embedded in the text. We may have to relax that rule and ask for a marker to navigate to if we do not come up with a more elegant solution.

Lastly, we have to propose a solution to the NIH policy office. They may not like our initial proposal, in which case we will do more work.

For the July 1 Pilot, this problem may not be resolved entirely. Our objective is to test communications, transfers and loads of information. We may have to work on the PDF issue in the summer.

2. Dr. McGowan informed the CWG that the installation of hardware for load balancing and the recompetition of the primary development contract may impact the deployment schedule for July and October. Can we get an update on status of this load balancing effort and how/or if this will affect the timing of SBIR CGAP Project.

The installation of load-balancing hardware and other infrastructure upgrades should not affect the CGAP project much at all. We plan to use a distinct computer for the exchange and do not expect high volumes starting in November. See the article, *New Load Balancer to Direct eRA Commons Traffic,* in the latest edition of Inside eRA for Partners: http://era.nih.gov/eranews/latestpartners.cfm

The re-competition should not affect the first phase of CGAP as the incumbent development teams are expected to be in place until November.

3. A question came up at the phone call about the NoIndirectCostsRequested element in the PHS 398 XML Technical Scema document. The SBIR claimed there was no type set in the document for that element.

No, there is no content type indicated for NoIndirectCostsRequested, and that is intentional. The very presence of the tag conveys all the information that is needed. The schema allows this tag to indicate that none of the other "IndirectCosts" questions apply from the PHS 398 checklist page.

Other Topics

Pilot preparation

- **SBIR computer and Web server**—Next week, SBIRs should expect a message asking for some information. The message will ask for the SBIR to prepare a computer and Web server and allow NIH access to it to send messages. The NIH will need the address of the computer and the URL we will retrieve applications from, the SBIR's DUNS number and a few other pieces of information.

- **NIH computer**—NIH will provide the location of the NIH machine and similar information to the SBIR to enable communications messages.

- **Pilot Plan**—We also have started working on a Pilot plan, to gradually start testing some interfaces as the code becomes stable. We expect his draft of the plan to be ready by the next conference call. It will not be a very large document, just an outline of the activities and schedule anticipated.